

## **ABSTRACT**

Method and apparatus for discovery, inventory, and assessment of critical information in an organization, critical information including electronic data on computers, the method  
5 comprising the steps of defining critical information, distributing critical information policy to computers containing information that needs to be assessed, generating an inventory of information on each computer, assessing the criticality by applying the criticality definition, generating a report of assessment, collecting assessment reports from individual computers, and generating a reports for the organization at a computer  
10 and organization level, including a distribution of critical information and said apparatus comprising a centralized manager and distributed software components on computers containing information to be assessed.